

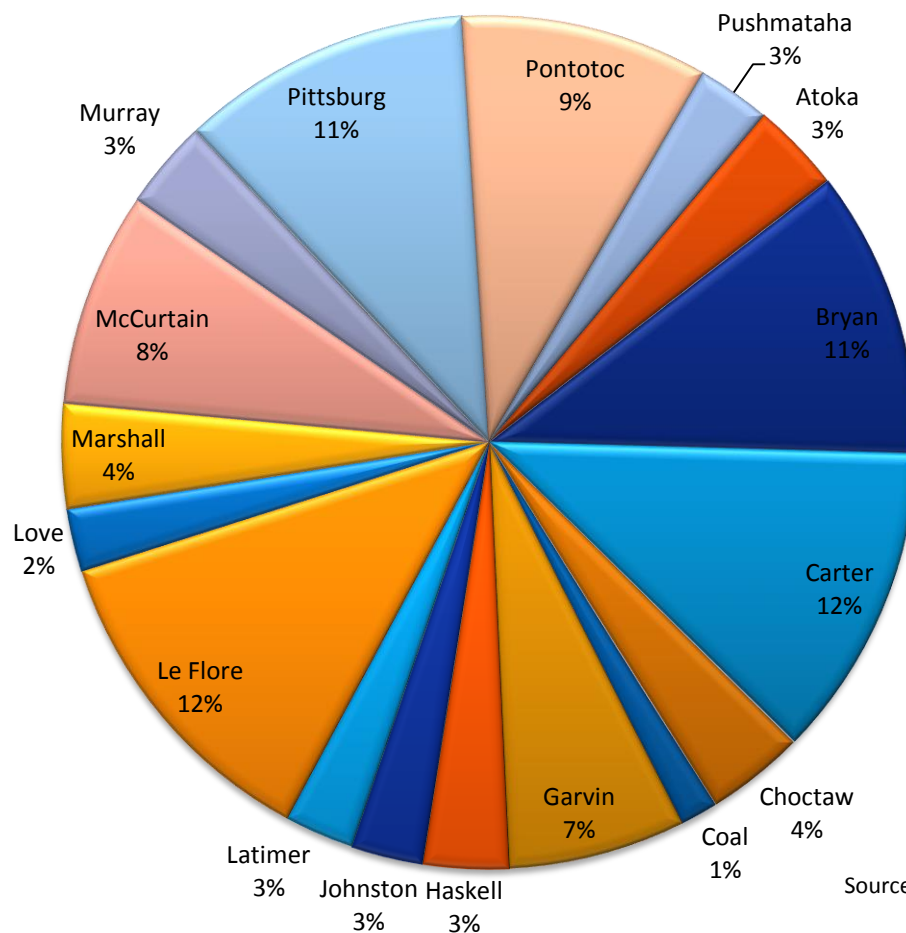
Southern Oklahoma Workforce Briefing

August 2015

The Southern Oklahoma Workforce area consists of seventeen counties: Atoka, Bryan, Carter, Choctaw, Coal, Garvin, Haskell, Johnston, Latimer, Le Flore, Love, Marshall, McCurtain, Murray, Pittsburg, Pontotoc, and Pushmataha. These counties have a combined estimated Census population of 406,650. Ardmore, located in Carter County, is the largest city in the region with an estimated population of 24,950.

- Le Flore County is the most populous county in the region with an estimated population of 49,760.
- Carter County, home to the region's largest city, Ardmore, is the second largest county in the region with a population of 48,820.
- Coal County is the smallest in the region with an estimated population of 5,810.
- The region has seen varying population change since 2010; eight counties have experienced between 2% and -2% population change. Five counties have lost two percent or more population: Atoka (-2.7%), Pittsburg (-2.6%), Pushmataha (-3.9%), Coal (-2.0%) and Latimer (-4.1%). Five counties have grown two percent or more population: Carter (2.3%), Marshall (2.3%), Murray (2.3%), Love (3.7%) and Bryan (4.9%).
- Seven of the seventeen counties have populations greater than 25,000. Two counties have populations less than 10,000 (Love, Coal).

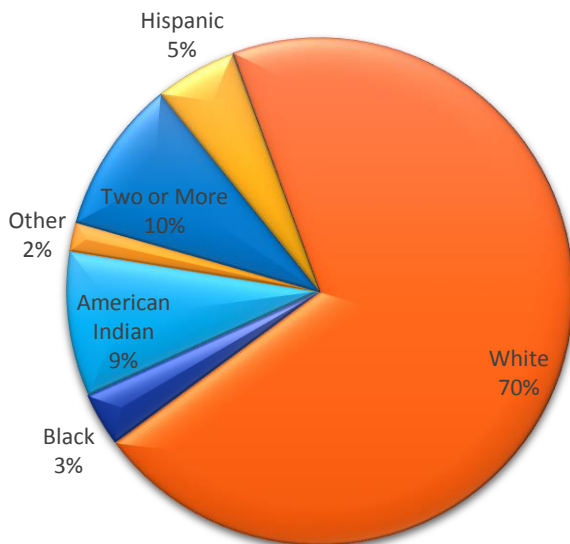
Southern Oklahoma Region Percentage of Population by County



Source: Census Quick Facts

Population Breakdown by Race:

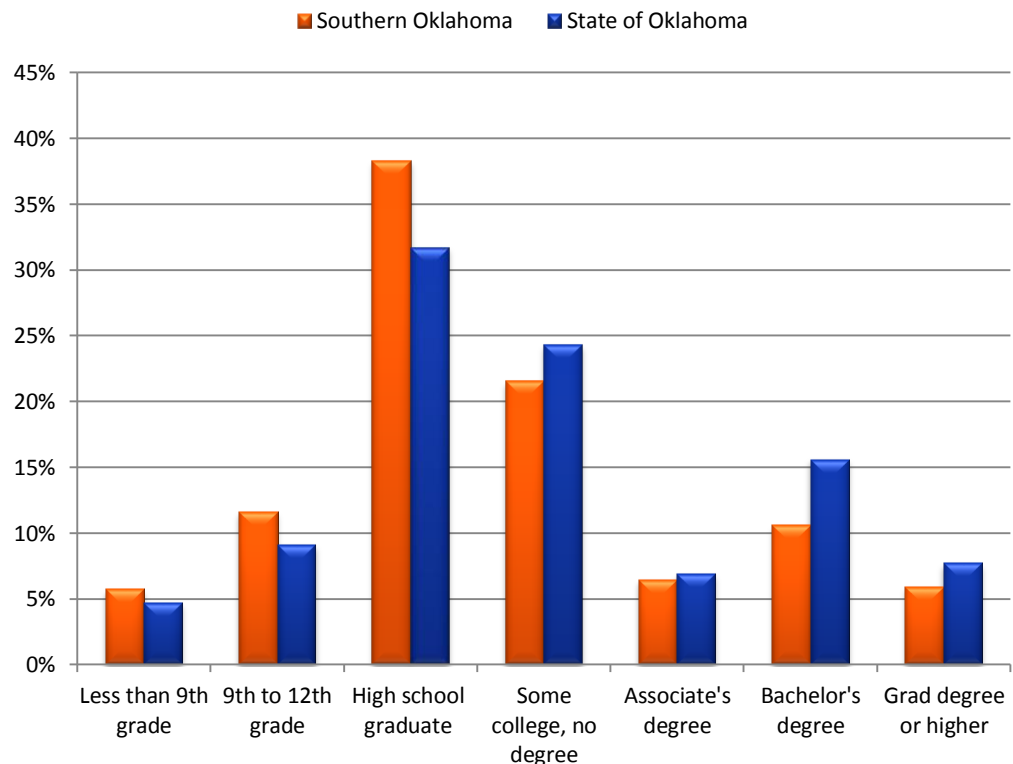
Southern Oklahoma Percentage of Population by Race



- “White” is the most populous racial group in the Southern Oklahoma Workforce region, making up 70.1% of the population. This is below the state average of 75.5%. In real numbers, the White population in the Southern Oklahoma region is an estimated 299,510.
- “Two or More Races” is the second most populous group in the region, consisting of 9.8% of the population.
- “American Indian” makes up 9.2% of the population in the Southern Oklahoma Region.
- “Black or African-American” makes up 3.4% of the population, while “Asian” and “Native Hawaiian” makes up less than 1% of the population.
- Hispanics, which are categorized by the Census bureau as an ethnicity, make up 5.2% of the population in the Southern Oklahoma Workforce area.

Educational Attainment in Southern Oklahoma Region

- 82.7% of individuals living in the Southern Oklahoma Workforce region have attained at least a high school degree. This is well below the statewide average of 86.2%.
- As a region, Southern Oklahoma lags behind the state averages for post-secondary educational attainment. The largest gap appears in the Bachelor’s degree attainment where Southern Oklahoma is 5% below the state average.
- Another large gap is in High school graduates. The region is 6.6% lower than state the state average.
- Southern Oklahoma should focus on encouraging post-secondary educational attainment. The region has some of the lowest numbers in the state for post-secondary education. Only two counties- Carter and Pontotoc- have at least 85% of the population with a high school degree or higher. The state average is 86.2%.



Source: Census Quick Facts

Southern Oklahoma Region Educational Assets

Colleges, Universities, and Career Techs are vital in developing the workforce of Southern Oklahoma. The region is home to several educational institutions that help develop the region's workforce. These institutions help supply organizations and companies with the labor and skills necessary for today's economy. Colleges, Universities, and Career Techs can work with employers in Southern Oklahoma to find gaps in employee skills. With Health Care and Social Services and Manufacturing as two significant industries, the institutions should be able to provide adequate training for the workforce to succeed.

Career Techs

There are three Career Techs in the Southern Oklahoma Region area with thirteen locations:

- **Pontotoc Technology Center** (Ada)
- **Southern Oklahoma Technology Center** (Ardmore)
- **Kiamichi Technology Center** (Antlers, Atoka, Durant, Hugo, Idabel, McAlester, Poteau, Spiro, Stigler, Talihina, Wilburton)

Colleges and Universities

Source: Oklahoma Career Tech

There are eight colleges and universities in the region:

- **Carl Albert State College** (Poteau)
- **East Central University** (Ada)
- **Eastern Oklahoma State College** (McAlester, Wilburton)
- **Murray State College** (Tishomingo)
- **Southeastern Oklahoma State University** (Durant, Idabel)
- **University Center of Southern Oklahoma** (Ardmore)

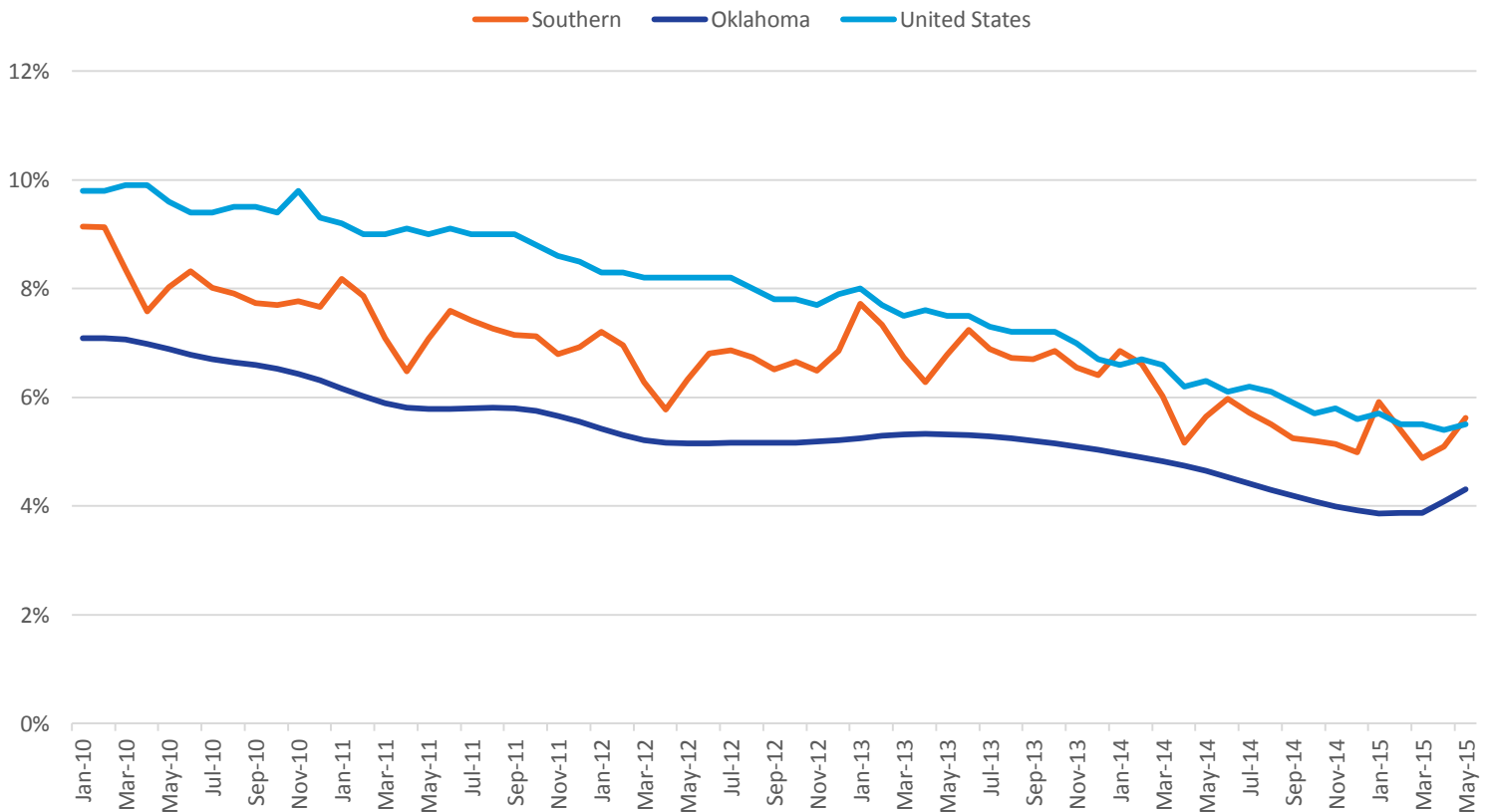
Source: Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

Economic Data

Unemployment Rate

- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the estimated region-wide unemployment rate in Southern Oklahoma for May 2015 is 5.6%.
- Southern Oklahoma's unemployment rate of 5.6% is above the statewide unemployment rate of 4.3% and also above the national average of 5.5%.
- In real numbers, the Southern Oklahoma labor force consists of 177,050 people with 9,960 currently unemployed.
- Since January 2010, the Southern Oklahoma unemployment rate has stayed above the state average but most below the national unemployment rate. Only recently has the national average dipped below the Southern average. Although there have been a few spikes, the Southern Oklahoma region has maintained a gradual declining trend in its unemployment rate, since peaking at 9.1% in January and February 2010.

5 Year Unemployment Rate- Region, State, National



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Top Industries in Southern Oklahoma by Jobs

- The industry most prominently represented in the Southern Oklahoma Workforce region based on job numbers in 2014 is Government (including Defense and Education). Other highly represented industries include Health Care and Social Assistance and Manufacturing.
- As a region, the top earning industries have earnings potential less than the state averages.
- Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction has the highest gap of earnings in the Southern Oklahoma Region, earning \$36,200 less compared with state averages.
- Service industries, including religious and civic institutions, have the most comparable earnings to state averages.

Industry	2015 Jobs	Current Regional Earnings	2015 State Total Earnings
Government	44,637	\$48,731	\$54,905
Health Care and Social Assistance	18,193	\$38,322	\$50,696
Manufacturing	14,998	\$54,537	\$65,998
Construction	9,525	\$41,227	\$47,930
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	7,276	\$74,768	\$110,991
Transportation and Warehousing	6,379	\$48,666	\$64,746
Other Services (except Public Administration)	6,318	\$23,221	\$25,157
Administrative, Support and Waste Management	5,175	\$29,338	\$37,121
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	4,517	\$45,280	\$66,308
Wholesale Trade	4,098	\$50,911	\$64,790

Source: EMSI 2015.2 Class of Worker

Top Paying Industries in Southern Oklahoma

- The top paying industry in Southern Oklahoma is Utilities with an average annual salary of \$91,961.
- Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction jobs are the second highest earnings industry in the region.
- Manufacturing and Government are industries that have both high job numbers and high earnings potential.

Industry	2015 Jobs	Current Regional Earnings	2015 State Total Earnings
Utilities	1,032	\$91,961	\$148,172
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	7,276	\$74,768	\$110,991
Manufacturing	14,998	\$54,537	\$65,998
Management of Companies and Enterprises	704	\$53,346	\$94,292
Wholesale Trade	4,098	\$50,911	\$64,790
Information	1,184	\$50,482	\$66,810
Government	44,637	\$48,731	\$54,905
Transportation and Warehousing	6,379	\$48,666	\$64,746
Finance and Insurance	3,927	\$46,966	\$67,241
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,479	\$46,187	\$46,309

Source: EMSI 2015.2 Class of Worker

Major Employers in Southern Oklahoma

Listed below are some of the more significant employers in the region. Commerce in Southern Oklahoma is not primarily concentrated in any one area; however there are a significant number of Native American services, manufacturing, and health and social service employers in the area.

Employer	City	Industry
Chickasaw Nation	Ada	American Indian Tribal Governments
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	Durant	American Indian Tribal Governments
Chickasaw Enterprises	Marietta; Sulphur; Ada	Gambling Industries
Michelin North America	Ardmore	Tire Manufacturing
Tyson Poultry	Broken Bow	Poultry Processing
McAlester Army Ammunitions Plant	McAlester	Ammunition Manufacturing
Chickasaw Nation Division of Health	Ada	Physician's Office
Choctaw Casino - Durant	Durant	Casino
Choctaw Nation Health Center	Talihina	Physician's Office
Mercy Hospital	Ardmore; Ada	General Medical and Surgical Hospital
National Oilwell Varco	McAlester	Oil and Gas Equipment Manufacturing
McAlester Regional Hospital	McAlester	General Medical and Surgical Hospital
Nabors Drilling	Pocola	Drilling Oil and Gas Wells
Wal-Mart	Multiple Cities	Warehouse Clubs and Supercenters
Jackie Brannon Correctional Center	McAlester	Correctional Institution
Durant Public Schools	Durant	Elementary and Secondary Schools
Ardmore Public Schools	Ardmore	Elementary and Secondary Schools
CM Trailers	Madill	Truck Trailer Manufacturing
Southeastern Oklahoma State	Durant	Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools
East Central University	Ada	Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools
Choctaw Casino - Pocola	Pocola	Casino
Flex-N-Gate	Ada	Industrial Mold Manufacturing
Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma	Durant	General Medical and Surgical Hospital
McAlester Public Schools	McAlester	Elementary and Secondary Schools
Oklahoma Steel & Wire	Madill	Fabricated Wire Manufacturing
Kiamichi Technology Centers	Multiple Cities	Vocational School
Spirit Aerosystems	McAlester	Aircraft Manufacturing
International Paper	Valliant	Paper Mill

Source: EMSI 2014.3; QCEW; OneSource